

Meadowbrook Messenger

Summer 2015

PRESIDENT VALERIE'S "STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION" ADDRESS:

By the time you read this, I hope that summer has truly arrived! I would like to thank former Board member, Kim Newman, for serving one year as Secretary. In addition, a big thank you to returning Board member, Scott Locke, who has accepted the position as Vice President and new Board members Adam Park, who will be handling the role as Treasurer and Craig Fick, who is taking over the responsibilities as Secretary. I also ran for a second term and will continue to serve as President. As reported at the December 2014 Annual Meeting, we continue to negotiate with HDI regarding responsibility for the easement and footage at the entrance of Meadowbrook on Forestview Road. At the time, we had a series of correspondence with HDI Developers attorney and did not come to a conclusion regarding a formal easement agreement. Consequently, Adam Park, Margaret Cho (former Board member) and I attended and presented a summary of the dispute to the Bath Township Planning Commission at their April 2015 meeting. The purpose was to alert them to the ongoing lack of an agreement and contribution toward maintenance and repair of the easement granted to us by HDI. Adam Park also presented to the Planning Commission our concerns regarding traffic safety & lack of lighting at the corner of Marsh and Forestview Roads. The Township will pursue an evaluation of the traffic and frequency of car accidents, as well as lack of lighting as traffic continues to increase with new development of the Day Care center and Urgent Care center at this entryway. You will see from the remainder of this newsletter your Board continues to work on our community's behalf by addressing a number of issues on an ongoing basis. Please contact us at board@meadowbrookhaslett.org with any questions or concerns you may have regarding our neighborhood. This is the best way to reach us since this email is monitored by each Board member on a regular basis and will typically get you a response within 24 hours. **As always, in case of law enforcement or fire emergency, please CALL 911 & not a Board member!** Finally...a reminder to please make every attempt to avoid overnight parking on residential streets. If you are parking on the street, please be sure to park your vehicle *in the direction of traffic and not AGAINST.*

TRAFFIC / FIRE SAFETY:

Once again, the Board has received several complaints about residents speeding and ignoring stop signs within the neighborhood. This is a serious concern considering the number of children and walkers we have in Meadowbrook especially during the summer months. We ask that you *and your guests* take a little extra time by obeying the posted speed limits (20 MPH) and coming to a complete stop at stop signs to ensure the safety of your family and neighbors. The Board takes your family's safety very seriously and requests your help by reporting any offenders to the Board and the Bath Township Police at 517.641.6271. Please document as much information as possible including make/model/color of vehicle, license plate number, address of vehicle, time and date, etc. This will greatly assist police in their efforts to contact the driver and help to ensure the safety of our residents.

Recently, the Bath Township Fire Department has twice been called to our neighborhood for fires in the woods near the Marsh entryway. One of the firefighters commented the second fire appeared to be set intentionally. We are aware that many kids play in those woods and ask that parents please have a conversation with your kids about how quickly fires spread and the importance of not playing with fire.

NOTES FROM THE TREASURER:

The past few winters have been significantly challenging to the Meadowbrook budget. We are diligent regarding our expenses, however, the largest budget items are snow and ice removal which are out of our control. Given this and the continual rise in prices of commodities and needs to repair and replace roads, the Board will likely raise dues for 2016. We are proud of the fact that dues have not increased in 5 years, so this is not a topic taken lightly. We are also grateful to Designers Choice Landscaping for charging us at cost for salt expenses and salting more lightly in view of the impact on our wetlands. We are also one of the first subdivisions in the area to be cleared from snow which may or may not be a good thing depending on how badly you want to make it into work on snowy mornings!

PROTECTING OUR WETLANDS:

With the arrival of summer, you might be considering fertilizing your lawn and landscaping. Please remember our drainage system in the subdivision directs everything that you put on your lawn/garden or the street into our wetlands. To keep our neighborhood desirable and preserve home values, please take time to consider the following: 1.) Since there are sufficient nutrients in the soil, lawns really do not need to be fertilized especially if you use a mulching mower. 2.) If you do fertilize, please consider using an organic fertilizer which contain no phosphorous and contain lower amounts of Nitrogen (4%) than other fertilizers. 1 pound of phosphorous equals up to 500 lbs of aquatic weeds. 3.) If the organic fertilizer is not in your budget, please consider using a fertilizer that is at least phosphorous free. 4.) In addition, herbicides and pesticides are also very deleterious to our wetland. Another recommendation for those living on the wetlands: Consider planting a 10 foot buffer strip at the edge of your yard, even slightly into the water's edge. One can get specific native Michigan plants including grasses, bushes, and trees along with advice from Bill Schneider at Wildtype Nursery in Mason. These native plants generally require little or no maintenance.

SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE:

If your home includes a pedestrian sidewalk in front, now might be a good time to check into the maintenance of trees and other landscaping you may have adjacent to the walkway. Please be considerate of your neighbors by trimming back the clearance height of your street trees to allow for passage of an average size adult (6 ft) and also cutting back any ground level shrubs which may extend over the sidewalk and possibly impede walkers or bicycles.

Meadowbrook Board:

Valerie Shebroe, President
Scott Locke, Vice President
Craig Fick, Secretary
Adam Park, Treasurer
Chris Drobney, HDI Rep

Meadowbrook Condo Owners Association:

PO Box 471
Haslett, Michigan 48840
board@meadowbrookhaslett.org
www.meadowbrookhaslett.org
www.meadowbrookhaslettnextdoor.com